



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER
New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

- Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
- Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

- Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
- Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
- Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
- Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Direct Sales Daily

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania
Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ
7 am EDT Monday, August 5, 2002

Rainfall amounts, three to four tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts in thunderstorms today, four to five tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts in thunderstorms tonight, none Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, southwest 10 to 15 mph today, northwest 10 to 15 mph tonight, north 15 to 25 mph Tuesday. Relative humidity in percent, 45 to 55 today, 90 to near 100 tonight, 35 to 45 Tuesday.

Dew points, low 70s today, upper 60s tonight, low 50s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair at best today, good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, little dew but wetting possible in thunderstorms tonight, light dew Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 60 today, 80 Tuesday.

There is a 40 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Hay cutting should see generally fair drying conditions with the threat of thunderstorms today with much drier air moving into the region on Tuesday.

Conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today and Tuesday.

The latest 6 to 10 day outlook for the period August 10, 2002 to August 14, 2002 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 8/05/02

Temperatures averaged much above normal. Extremes were 101 degrees at Flemington on July 28, 2002 and 62 degrees at Charlotteburg on August 1, 2002.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.66 inches north, 1.62 inches central, and 0.25 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.01 inches at Long Branch on August 2, 2002 to August 3, 2002.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 65 percent north, 60 percent central, and 36 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 77 degrees north, 79 degrees central, and 80 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 8/05/02

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches - - Degrees - - Base 50°F -										
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.10	19.93	-.42	100	64	82	9	2013	343	51
Canoe Brook	.48	22.09	.65	98	64	81	7	2126	459	60
Charlotteburg	.86	20.53	-1.09	98	62	80	9	1739	440	66
Flemington	.93	21.81	1.06	101	64	82	8	2045	332	65
Long Valley	.25	18.79	-3.47	94	66	79	8	1650	173	56
Newton	1.33	19.98	.12	94	63	80	8	1868	352	79
CENTRAL										
Freehold	1.50	17.85	-2.29	97	67	83	8	2245	411	77
Long Branch	3.01	21.07	.99	94	64	79	5	2038	283	84
New Brunswick	2.00	20.53	.38	99	67	83	9	2155	236	86
Pemberton	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Toms River	.65	21.62	.92	97	64	81	8	2174	417	49
Trenton	.96	18.49	-.78	100	69	84	8	2183	182	57
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina	.13	17.25	.01	99	73	83	8	2234	467	22
Cape May C.H.	.00	17.70	-.13	96	71	84	8	2341	467	19
Downtown	.00	18.13	-.72	98	66	83	7	2215	202	30
Glassboro	.00	16.73	-3.10	99	72	85	9	2439	452	25
Hammonton	1.53	17.66	-2.22	99	66	83	7	2233	247	79
Pomona	.12	18.73	.73	98	67	83	9	2208	354	26
Seabrook	.00	20.10	1.90	99	71	84	8	2478	458	28
South Harrison	.00	18.04	-2.06	99	70	85	N/A	2361	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Hot and humid weather blanketed the region last week. Daytime temperatures ranged from the mid to high 90's. Friday evening a line of strong to severe thunderstorms moved across parts of central and southern New Jersey. Rains were heavy at times, with some localities receiving nearly four inches of rain. These storms also produced high winds and dangerous lightning which downed trees and caused power outages in some areas. Outdoor activities included irrigating fields, digging potatoes, cutting and baling hay, and harvesting summer vegetables. Days suitable for field work averaged 6.0. Top soil moisture was rated 30% very short, 55% short, and 15% adequate. Hay producers reported limited regrowth in some fields due to persistent hot weather and dry conditions. Livestock producers continued feeding hay and grain to supplement dry pastures. Some dairy producers reported increased heat stress in herds and decreased milk production due to the hot weather. Vegetable producers continued harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and other summer vegetables. Crops under irrigation were rated in mostly good condition, however, some producers expressed concern over declining water supplies. Peach harvest continued on schedule, with crop condition rated as mostly fair to good by producers. Blueberry harvest was nearing completion in most areas.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE				RANGE AND PASTURE			
	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR		CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	12%	VERY POOR	0%	0%	8%
SHORT	30%	20%	76%	POOR	40%	36%	12%
ADEQUATE	55%	55%	12%	FAIR	48%	47%	64%
SURPLUS	15%	25%	0%	GOOD	12%	17%	15%
				EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

*JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 5, 2002

- Blueberries** – The commercial season is over.

Cabbage – Green, Red, and Savoy available in quality, though quantity is off until the end of August. Volume and size has been less with the hotter weather.

Cantaloupes – The hot weather is hastening ripening with good quantity available. Sizes are also a little smaller.

Collards & Escarole/Endive – Good quality and decreasing quantity available now. Hot weather causing lighter quantities to be available. Will be available throughout the Summer.

Cucumbers - Good quality and lessening quantity available due to the heat.

Eggplant – Good quality and quantity available.

Italian Eggplant – Good quality and quantity available.

Sicilian Eggplant – Good quality and quantity available.

Green Beans – Good quality but hot weather causing decreased volume and size variability.

Green Onions – Good quality and quantity available.

Herbs – Lighter quantities available now for Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, Arugula, and Baby Arugula with hot weather stretches causing some heat related light availability of these and other herbs. Some herbs though, like Basil, Mint, and Mustard like the hot weather and thrive in this kind of heat. Expect most herbs other than Arugula to be available all Summer.

Leeks - Good quality and decreasing quantity of Spring planted varieties being dug now. Early June planted varieties will be available in several weeks.

Napa Cabbage – Quantity and quality available now.

Nectarines - Summer Beaut finishing up. Sunglo, Flavor Top, and Red Gold varieties being harvested now. Mid-August is the heaviest volume time with great quantities of Red Gold and Fantasia varieties available by next week. Will be available through the end of August.
- Peppers** – Quality and quantity are available now.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) – Good quality and quantity available.

Plum Tomatoes – Harvest building in quantity quickly over the next several weeks with ripening due to the hot weather. Good size.

Shanghai Bok Choi - Quantity and quality available now.

Sweet Corn – Still the peak of season. Quantity available for supermarket buyers (8” size) with Argent and Silver King varieties. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes – The recent heat wave has continued to cause a lot of field ripening with this week’s heat expected to continue this pattern. Watch for small supply gaps in the future as the heat has caused the ripening of various sequential plantings to run together. Volume will continue to increase this week.

White Potatoes – Harvest began two weeks ago. Quantity expected to build each week.

White Peaches - White Lady variety finishing up this week. The quality and color of this fruit is excellent. Blushing Star and Sugar Giant varieties will be available next week, followed a few days later by Lady Nancy. Snow Giant follows a few days later about the third week of August.

Yellow Peaches – Red Haven and John Boy varieties available in declining quantities, still with excellent quality fruit and color. Loring variety has been excellent and is available in fair, though decreasing quantities. Bounty variety being harvested now with great color and size. Blake and Crest Haven varieties are ripening beautifully and will soon be available.

Yellow Squash – Good quality and large quantity available.

Zucchini - Good quality and large quantity available.
- *Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.*